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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 31 Oct. 1949

SUBJECT Mass Arrest Plans

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1.

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[REDACTED] the Interior Ministry and the StB were making preparations for mass arrests beginning 1 October 1949. Arrests were to number from 20,000 to 30,000 in Prague and were to reach a total of 100,000 in Czechoslovakia. The Ministry of the Interior and the StB were preparing the lists, and a high StB official was in charge of the whole operation.

2. Two lists were being prepared, one by a Ministry of the Interior commission headed by Bedrich Pokorny, with Kacma (fnu), Triskova (fnu), and two unidentified persons as members. The second list was compiled from suggestions of block leaders, each of whom had to submit the name of at least one person on his block.

3. The following groups were to be included on the lists:

- a. Intellectuals known to be enemies of the regime.
- b. Bourgeois entrepreneurs and shopkeepers.
- c. Persons owning considerable property or well-furnished homes.

4. The arrests in Prague were to be carried out mainly at night on the maximum practicable scale, i.e. several hundred persons every night till 1 January 1950. Those arrested were to be taken to the Monastery Svaty Jan pod Skalou, south-west of Prague on the Berounka River, where transports of 1200 persons each would be formed for transportation to forced labor camps at Jachymov and Iribran. Simon Simonovich, a Russian national, was to be in charge of the assignment of prisoners to the mines.

5. Those arrested would lose their homes and property, and their families would be moved to the Polish border area, where they would be assigned deserted houses.

6.

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[REDACTED] mass arrests on such a scale were unlikely, since, in their opinion, the Communist regime would not be able to bear the pressure generated. On 3 October, however, he learned that the arrests were actually taking place

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- a. Liquidation of the remnants of the "reaction".
- b. Replacement of the German prisoners of war in the Jachymov, Pribram, and other mines.
- c. Procurement of a large number of apartments in the larger cities to be assigned to deserving workers so as to obtain the approval of the working class.
- d. Repopulation of deserted villages along the Polish border.
- e. Intimidation of the population.